

CITY OF FLORENCE
Transportation Committee

**Recommendation to the City Council to Approve the
2021-2022 (Year 1) Transportation Committee Work Plan**

1. The Florence City Council adopted the City of Florence Committee & Commission Policy Manual (Manual) on November 5, 2018 via Resolution No. 21, Series 2018.
2. Chapter 7 of the Manual sets the Commissions' role in goal setting and work plan creation, including requirements that all permanent standing commissions and committees, except for the Budget Committee, are charged with developing:
 - a. An annual work plan for their committee for the upcoming year
3. In addition, Chapter 7 of the Manual indicates the following:
 - a. Committee / Commission work plans must be consistent, relevant, and supportive to the Council's goals.
 - b. Committee / Commission work plans shall be presented to the City Manager and City Council for approval at a Council meeting in the Spring of each year. This action will generally occur on a Council meeting consent agenda.
4. On April 19, 2021, the Florence City Council adopted Resolution No. 14, Series 2021, a resolution reaffirming the City of Florence's Council Goals and adopting the July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023 City of Florence work plan.
5. The Transportation Committee has reviewed the adopted City Council goals and work plan and have prepared an annual work plan, which it believes is consistent, relevant and supportive of the Council's adopted goals / work plan.

THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:

1. The 2021-2022 Transportation Committee Year 1 Work Plan, Exhibit A.

COMMITTEE APPROVAL:

This Recommendation is passed by Transportation Committee vote on the 20th day of July, 2021.

Terry Tomeny
Terry Tomeny, Chairperson
Transportation Committee

for



City of Florence
A City in Motion

City of Florence
 Transportation
 Committee Work Plan Draft
 July 2021 – June 2023

Transportation Committee (TC) Overview:

The Transportation Committee was established by the City Council in November of 2018. This committee is a combination of the previous Transportation Advisory Committee and the Airport Advisory Committee. The Transportation Committee strives to advise the Council and implement the provisions of the City Council goals and work plan related to the City’s transportation system which include, but are not limited to:

- Traffic & Vehicular
- Bike & Pedestrian
- Public & Private Transit
- Air

The objective of this document is to create priorities for the 2021 and 2023 biennial cycle. The committee has designated four priorities to guide their work during this biennium. These four priorities include supporting the City’s Transportation System Plan updates as it undergoes a revision, promoting and expanding public transportation opportunities in Florence, promotion and upkeep of the airport, and creating a city-wide pedestrian and bicycle friendly environment.

Transportation Committee Members	
Terry Tomeny; Chairperson	Sylvia Napoles; Vice-Chairperson
Vicki Dunaway	Robert Steele
Gary Trevisan	Stephen Raley
Joseph Cullivan	John Ahlen, Lane Transit District
Susan Jones	David Hope, Coos County Area Transit
Larry Farnsworth	Vacant-Ex-Officio Member, CEDC
Woody Woodbury; Ex-Officio Member-City Council	Josh Haring, River Cities Taxi
Kelly Clarke; Lane Council of Govts.	Roxanne Johnston; Ex-Officio Member-City Staff

Committee Priorities:

Transportation System Plan:

The Florence Transportation System Plan (TSP) is scheduled to be updated during the 2021-2023 biennium. The current TSP was adopted in 2012 and since then, the TSP has become obsolete and confusing for staff and developers who look to the document for direction. Growth in Florence is continuing to rise, local and state documents and policies related to transportation needs of the City have been amended. More recently, the opportunity for Florence as a transportation hub has become a strong possibility and was a key focal point in securing a Transportation Growth Management Grant that will enable vital TSP updates. The Transportation Committee is prepared to take an active role in assisting the City in developing an updated TSP.

Public Transportation:

As ridership on the Rhody Express continues to rise, and the introduction of the Florence – Eugene bus route on its way to being established in spite of Covid-19, and with the introduction of a new transit system from Coos Bay to Florence, the Transportation Committee's work regarding public transportation efforts in the City are as important as ever. Most recently, the Transportation Committee was informed that Lane Council of Governments was also awarded a Transportation Growth Management Grant, which could facilitate better connectivity to towns and cities within Lane County and other counties as well. This task is outlined in the *City of Florence Work Plan*, Priority #6: Infrastructure and Capital Improvements, Transportation, Objective 11 (Page 19).

Public Transportation priorities for the Transportation Committee include:

- Continued promotion of the Rhody Express route within Florence
- Continued promotion of the Florence-Yachats Connector
- Continued promotion of the Florence-Eugene Bus Route
- Support of LCOG's endeavors to expand Lane County's regional transportation plan
- Promotion of the Coos Bay-Florence Connector
- Continued efforts to provide avenues for public engagement about current and future public transportation options
- Assist with development of transit ridership surveys to target needs
- Investigate the safety issue with the Safeway bus stop.

Florence Municipal Airport:

During Spring of 2019, the Florence Municipal Airport completed the airport runway and taxiway lighting project funded through a grant from the FAA, culminating in a major improvement to the previous system that was over 30 years old. Currently, the airport is overseeing the installation of fiberoptic to provide airport users with high speed internet. Such

airport projects are outlined in the *City of Florence Work Plan*, Priority #6: Infrastructure and Capital Improvements, Airport, Objectives 1 & 2 (Page 20).

Airport Priorities for the Transportation Committee:

- Continue to promote business opportunities for the Airport.
- Research opportunities for grants to develop General Ben King Memorial Airport Gateway
- Continue to implement airport improvements according to Airport Master Plan
- Work with Staff to complete update of the Airport Hanger Lease Agreements to ensure consistency.
- Research the feasibility of a flight connector service to Eugene and Portland.

Old Town Parking Requirements:

Parking in Old Town continues to be a public issue, especially during the height of the tourist seasons in Spring and Summer. The City Council tasked the Transportation Committee to consider changes that could be made to the Old Town district regarding parking as outlined in the *City of Florence Work Plan*, Priority #2: Family Wage Jobs & Workforce Development, Tourism Promotion, Objective 3 & 4 (Page 14).

Old Town Parking Priorities for the Transportation Committee:

- Research Bike-Share Opportunities within Florence
- Research parking solutions in other municipalities around the state and nation
- Work with FURA and the City Council to consider amendments to parking requirement in Old Town
- Investigate ways to secure the continued use of the Port parking lot.
- Investigate implementing a shuttle service from the Florence Events Center during peak periods.

Private Transportation:

Private transportation in Florence serves a public purpose. Included in this purpose is the need for transportation to and from medical facilities and may also involve transporting medical equipment. In order to provide private transit owners and users with necessary information, a review of current licensing codes as they relate to differences between medical transport and private (ridership) transport should be reviewed. Additionally, in the event of a natural crisis, such as threats from a tsunami or wildfire, coordination between private transportation providers and the City could prove beneficial to both. Currently, taxi codes are available under the *City of Florence Work Plan* Misc. Codes and Process Amendments, City Licensing, Objective 1 (Page 24).

- Research and review City codes related to private transportation providers and revise to include medical transport elements.
- Research guidelines for a coordinated effort between private transportation providers and the City.